Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of image dithering process for detecting photo and character, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining a background color from a master copy;

separating content of said master copy into photo and character with said background color as a criterion;

processing said photo with halftone processing;

processing said character with line art processing;

and combining said processed photo and processed character as a whole.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim1~~claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

condensing said master copy based on said background color;

cutting transversely said condensed area;

cutting vertically said transversely cut area for ~~making~~dividing said original area ~~being divided~~ into several individual areas;

choosing a second background color from at least said individual area;

marking said at least one individual area with said photo as a photo area;

marking said individual area with said character as a character area; ~~and~~

utilizing said second background color to condense said individual areas; and

repeating said condensing ~~step when~~if said photo area and said character area of said individual area are not identifiable~~is unable to be identified~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said halftone processing comprising ~~is~~ a dithering process.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, ~~the equation of~~wherein said dithering process ~~is~~comprises ~~the~~ a sampling mode dithering~~(mark 50) shown in Figure 5 times one sixty-eighth~~.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method of image dithering process for detecting photo and character, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

     a.   choosing a first background color from a master copy;

     b.   separating the content of the master copy into images and text with the first background color as the criterion;

     c.   condensing the master copy based on the first background color;

     d.   cutting transversely the condensed master copy based on the first background color;

     e.   cutting vertically the transversely cut master copy based on the first background color~~; thus, there will be several~~ in order to create individual areas;

     f.   choosing a second background color from the individual areas;

     g.   identifying images and text based on the second background color;

     h.   marking the individual areas with images as an image area;

     i.   marking the individual areas with text as a text area;

     j.   if the individual areas cannot be identified, replacing the first background color with the second background color, condensing the unidentifiable individual areas based on the second background color, and then repeating ~~steps~~ d to j;

     k.   processing the images with halftone processing;

     l.   processing the text with ~~link~~line art processing; and

     m.   outputting the processed images and processed text as a whole.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~half-tone~~halftone processing ~~is~~comprises a dithering process.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, ~~the equation of~~ wherein the dithering process ~~is~~comprises ~~the~~a sampling mode dithering~~shown in the figure 5 (marked as 50) times one sixty-eighth~~.

8.   (New) An image dithering process for detecting image and text, comprising:

determining a background color from a master copy;

separating content of said master copy into image and text with said background color as a criterion;

processing said image with halftone processing;

processing said text with line art processing; and

combining said processed image and processed text.

9.   (New) The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

condensing said master copy based on said background color;

cutting transversely said condensed area;

cutting vertically said transversely cut area for dividing said original area into several individual areas;

choosing a second background color from at least one said individual area;

marking said at least one individual area with said photo as a photo area;

marking said individual area with said character as a character area;

utilizing said second background color to condense said individual areas; and

repeating said condensing if said photo area and said character area of said individual area are not identifiable.

10.   (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the method is carried out in a scanner.

11.   (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the method is carried out in a fax.